

City and County of San Francisco

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



Ross Mirkarimi
SHERIFF

(415) 554-7225

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CONTACT: Chief Deputy K. Gorwood, or S. Fahey
Office: 415-554-7225

SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF DEPARTMENT'S FIVE KEYS CHARTER SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES June 14, 2013

Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi announces the San Francisco Sheriff Department's Five Keys Charter School graduation ceremonies to be held at the Hall of Justice, located at 850 Bryant Street, 6th floor auditorium.

At 10:00 a.m. a ceremony will be held to recognize the achievements of 20 inmates in the San Francisco County Jail who have earned their high school diploma or equivalency while incarcerated. At 1:30 p.m. a community ceremony will be held to recognize an additional 45 students who will be awarded a diploma or equivalency.

These ceremonies, which mark the 17th graduating class and the 2nd graduating class of 2013, will be attended by family and friends of the graduates, as well as teachers, school officials, and dignitaries.

The San Francisco Sheriff Department's Five Keys Charter School, now celebrating its ten year anniversary, was founded in 2003 as a program of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. Five Keys Charter School is the first-in-the-nation public charter high school to operate in a county jail. Five Keys now operates at 13 community locations throughout San Francisco and 3 in Los Angeles. This year Five Keys will serve over 6,000 students and over 940 students daily. Five Keys serves 30% of the San Francisco jail population and interweaves the concepts of community, family, recovery, education, and employment into its school curriculum and workforce development programs. To date, Five Keys has awarded over 720 diplomas, GEDs, and certificates of completion, including this graduating class.

"Where incarceration is the intersection of so many wrongs in an inmate's life, historically, within the system, opportunities proved few in providing the ex-offender hope through a working skill. The San Francisco Sheriff Department's Five Keys Charter School innovates a common sense and compassionate approach toward effective reentry," stated Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi.

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